CHOICE OF TITLE: TITLE SELECTION AND CREATION FOR CARTOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Selecting a title for cartographic resources is not always a straightforward task. In many cases a map will have one and only one title, which means no choice needs to be made. However, frequently we do need to make a choice between two or more options. Several variant titles can appear throughout the resource and/or its accompanying material, the title information can be scattered locationally on the map(s), the title may provide a topic but not a place, there might be individual titles but not a collective title to use for the group, or there might not be a title at all. RDA instruction **2.3.2.5**, *Title in More Than One Form*, covers the primary aspect of choice by stating "If the sequence, layout, and typography do not provide the basis for a clear choice, choose the most comprehensive title" (re-stated in section **A.** below). However, the methodologies for choosing are most clearly provided in *Cartographic Materials*, Rule 1B8, which is taken and modified from AACR2 1.1B8. The following sections A and B are derived from these two sources.

A. Choosing Between Multiple Titles

When having to select one title from several options:
1. consider all the titles and *select the one including the most precise expression of **area included and subject covered***;
2. consider all titles and pick the one that includes the area and is in the most preferred location (see A - E below); or
3. pick the title from the most preferred location (see A - E below).

The order of preference for choosing a title proper for the 245 field is:

    A. Title located within the neat line or border of the main map
    B. Title from the recto but outside the neat line or border of the main map
    C. Panel title
    D. Title from verso of the cartographic item
    E. Title from cover, container, envelope, etc.

B. Other Title Situations and How to Handle Them

If elements of the title are scattered throughout the cartographic item, create a title in natural reading order, based on the following order of preference:
1. any element that is distinguished by **typology and/or position**;
2. any element that **includes the format (e.g. "map")** and the preposition "of";
3. any element that **includes the area included**;
4. any element that **includes the subject covered**;
5. any element that **includes the scale information** and the position suggests inclusion in the title;
6. any element that **includes the date** and the position suggests inclusion in the title.

Other types of title scenarios and how to cover them include:

If you have multiple individual titles for a group of maps but no collective title, see RDA **2.3.2.9** as a starting point, "record the titles proper of the parts as they appear on the source of information for the resource as a whole." This is useful when one has two main maps, each with its own title but not a collective title, in which case both titles are recorded in 245$a, such as:

Example: Sparta, Tennessee ; Official road map of White County, Tennessee

and then the second title can be traced as a variant title using a 246 field, as noted in the *Alternative* to this instruction, "If considered important for identification or access, record the titles of individual parts as the titles proper of related manifestations (see 27.1)." However, if three or more titles are involved it is best to follow the

situation below and devise a collective title, followed by providing access to the individual titles using a 505 contents note, with the option of also using multiple 246 fields for better patron access.

If the map does not have a title at all, see RDA **2.3.2.10**, and assuming we did not take a title from another source as provided for at instruction **2.2.4** we then begin the process of creating a devised title. At instruction **2.3.2.11** there are two choices, one is to create a title that includes "the nature of the resource (e.g., map…", or option "a"; and the second is to include "its subject … geographical area…", or option "b". And then there is the option that we always aim to apply to cartographic resources titles, found as a third choice, "a combination of the two, as appropriate", or option "c", which is further specified at instruction **2.3.2.11.2**, *Devised Titles for Cartographic Resources*. Sound familiar? This is a carryover of AACR2 Rule 1.1B8 as noted in the opening paragraph of this document.

Example: [Map of Ontario]
Example: [Gravity anomaly map of Canada]

Note that because we are *supplying* a devised title because one does not appear as part of the resource itself or its accompanying material instruction **2.2.4** tells us to show this by using square brackets with this element.

If the selected title does not indicate the area included but only the subject, we turn to instruction **2.3.4.5**, *Supplying Other Title Information for Cartographic Resources*.

Example: Land use and tenure : $b [Washington, D.C.]

In constructing, or "devising" a title due to the various circumstances noted above it is also important to follow instruction **2.3.2.10** where the very last sentence says "Make a note to indicate the source of the title proper (see 2.17.2.3)." (Similar information appears at the conclusion of other rules, such as 2.3.4.5.) At **2.17.2.3** is a list of example notes, and the one that fits these situations is "Title devised by cataloger".